

Bicycle Theft Prevention

When a student begins their quest for an education, one of the most popular modes of transportation is using a bicycle. A bicycle provides transportation for students as they learn the area in and around their campus. Since so many students use a bicycle, theft becomes a problem because so many bicycles are located on campus. The vast majority of bicycle thefts occur when bicycles were either unlocked, improperly locked, or locked with inadequate locking devices such as lightweight cables or chains. Thieves not only steal bicycles, they take seats and tires whenever possible. Here are the numbers pertaining to bicycle thefts from Salisbury University over the last five years:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Number</u>
2016	21
2017	18
2018	12
2019	18
2020	12

On a positive note the number of bicycle thefts have been going down the last few years. Here is a list of crime prevention tips to continue Salisbury University's downward trend in bicycle thefts.

- **The best lock to use is a quality U lock.** U locks are stronger and more durable than thin cable locks, which can be easily cut through. However, U locks limit the area of the bicycle you can secure at one time, so consider pairing your U lock with a sturdy steel chain. Use the chain lock to secure your tires. Remember, bicycle parts are also stolen from bicycles.
- **Always secure your bicycle to a bicycle rack.**
- **Swap quick release seats and wheel skewers for ones that require keys.** Seats and wheels come with "quick release" mechanisms, which make it easier to take them off, but at the same time makes those parts easier to

steal. Swap the “quick release” parts for ones that require keys. If you need to take your seat with you.

- **Try to always lock your bicycle to a bicycle rack in a well-lit and well-traveled area.**
- **Never leave your bicycle unsecure while unattended!**
- **Make sure to register your bicycle with the Salisbury University Police through the Salisbury University website.**
- **Keep accurate records.** Information to have in your possession include: the make (brand), model, serial number, personalized markings and color. This will assist the Police in attempting to recover your bicycle should you become a victim of a bicycle theft.